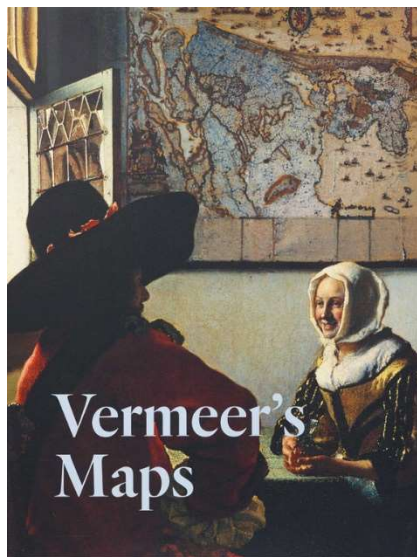


## Vermeer's Maps, By Rozemarijn Landsman.

Reviewed by Rebecca Bartlett, Carleton University Library

### Review



Landsman, Rozemarijn. *Vermeer's Maps*. New York: The Frick Collection, 2022. Hardcover, 128 pages, 68 color illustrations. \$39.95 US. ISBN 9781636810249

Rozemarijn Landsman's *Vermeer's Maps* highlights a specific and captivating intersection of cartographic and art history with this exploration of four specific wall maps that seventeenth-century Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer included in several of his paintings.

*Vermeer's Maps* is divided into two chapters, the first of which is Maps and Mapmakings in Seventeenth-Century Holland. Vermeer's attention to detail in his depictions of the maps was such that Landsman is able to provide many details about each map, which varies based on available sources but includes histories of the printers, cartographers, politics, and geographies involved. The background of each identified map is supplemented with discussion about the intended audience and usage. Readers with knowledge of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Dutch and European geography and history will be well served, as references to sub-national regions and their changing relationships with one another are common in this chapter.

The second chapter, titled Beyond Delft: Vermeer's Wall Maps, probes numerous aspects of Vermeer's inclusion of these specific maps in his art. Drawing on sources as varied as a 1676 inventory of Vermeer's possessions and modern radiography analyses of his paintings, Landsman probes questions such as where Vermeer may have seen the maps he so accurately depicted, why he chose those specific maps, how he so accurately rendered them, and reasons he may have adjusted the position of maps in his paintings – or in one case, removed a map altogether.

Landsman, who specializes in seventeenth-century Dutch art and earned her PhD in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University in 2023, clearly did extensive research for this book which is suited to an academic audience. Nearly 150 notes and citations are referenced in the text in addition to a lengthy bibliography at the end, which includes research in multiple languages.

Alongside the informative text, dozens of colour illustrations interspersed throughout make this a compelling book to pore over. Highlights include two-page spreads of each of the maps identified in the paintings, details of cartouches, side-by-side comparisons of symbology in different editions of the same map, and close-up details of Vermeer's renderings. The illustrated Appendix functions as a quick reference to the paintings and maps discussed throughout, notably providing a clear chronology of each map and its various editions.

*Vermeer's Maps* is a worthwhile addition to library collections on art, cartography, or seventeenth-century Dutch history, and provides both researchers and more casual readers with plenty to consider and threads to further explore.

[Image from: <https://shop.frick.org/vermeers-maps>]